

3-8-2002

Roy and Nancy Downing:

My name is Harry Bill Dickey. I was born and raised on a small farm in Mystic, Iowa, in March 1924. My cousin Art Dickey asked me to join CCC Co 777 in Carydon, Iowa. This was in 1941. This program created by FDR was to help young men educate them and move them in the right direction thru their life. This was the best thing I ever did. I worked with Mr. Owens in the Educational Dept. as an aide. I transferred to the Motor pool and then worked in Field. I was taught how to use the transit, working the rock quarry, planting trees and constructing terrace ridge. All of this pointed to a new way of life for me. I was at the camp when the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor Dec 7, 1941. Many of my friends left the camp to join the service. At the age of 18, I enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942- That was the last time I seen my family until Jan 1946. After 30 months in the Pacific I returned home and joined a small Union in Rock Island, Ill Working days and school at night to get my G.E.D. and construction experience. In 1948 I joined the Carpenter Union 166 in Rock Island, Ill. I credit all this from training with the CCC.

Because of my wife health problems we moved in 1963 to Glendale, AZ. I joined the Carpenters Local 906 and met with Costello Construction. I joined the firm as an estimator and building supervisor. I remained there 21 yrs, building large schools and churches.

I retired in 1985 and moved to a small village, Wilhoit, AZ south of Prescott, AZ. I transferred to a small Legions Post in Yarnil, AZ. Six months later I took over the Post as Cmdr. I took in eighty new members and moved the Post forward.

(CCC) experience I know- I was elected again 1994-1995-1995-1996, serving as Cmdr and Senior Vice for Squadron 79-

In 1996 I was elected Chaplain of both units, when my eyesight failed 1999 I retired. We now have 550 members. With the help from the V.A. I'm able to see and drive once again. I am now with the Color guard.

None of this could have possible with out the CCC training at Carydon.

Am sending you the camp paper now 60 yrs old, my Co 777 Pass badge and Jesse James certificate. If I find my discharge, will send it later.

Member Charles Brandon lives in Moline, Ill

Member Joe Rizzoli lives in Coal Valley, Ill, and is a Legion Color guard.

Roy please send me the American Legion POST NO and address in Mystic, Iowa. Please edit this to your liking.

Sincerely

God Bless

Harry Bill Dickey Past Cmdr Post 79